

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 TRSE-00 H-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 OMB-01 /061 W
-----290708Z 091229 /22

R 281537Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1507
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0631

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD SY
SUBJ: GENERAL MOTORS BOYCOTT PROBLEMS

REF: DAMASCUS 0583

1. WHILE DISCUSSING DEPARTMENTAL REQUEST INVESTIGATE
ALLEGATION RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION FROM SYRIAN BOYCOTT
AUTHORITIES, EMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICER DISCOVERED
GENERAL MOTORS IS FACING REAL, NOT IMAGINED, BOYCOTT
PROBLEMS OF ANOTHER NATURE.

2. ARAB LEAGUE CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE ISSUED WARNING NOTICE
THREE MONTHS AGO TO GENERAL MOTORS CORP. BASED ON TWO
INCIDENTS:

A. CENTRAL BOYCOTT RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT MARINE DIESELS
INSTALLED IN RECENTLY-MANUFACTURED ISRAELI PATROL BOATS ARE
GMC.

B. LUXURY AUTOMOBILES SOLD THROUGH SYRIAN GENERAL MOTORS
DISTRIBUTOR, IMPEX TRADING CO., WERE DELIVERED IN SAUDI
ARABIA TOGETHER WITH STEREO CASSETTES MANUFACTURED BY
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BOYCOTTED COMPANY (RCA), WITH RCA MARKETING LABELS
PARTIALLY TORN OUT.

3. GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION HAS REPLIED TO CHARGES
AS FOLLOWS:

A. SALE OF MARINE DIESELS TO ISRAEL WAS PURELY COMMERCIAL

DEAL. INsofar AS GMC IS AWARE, DIESELS WERE SOLD THROUGH A U.S. DISTRIBUTOR. NO SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY IS INVOLVED AND THERE WAS NO GM PARTICIPATION IN DESIGN OF ISRAELI PATROL BOATS.

B. IN RE CASSETTES: AS CARS WERE BEING LOADED IN NEW YORK, GMC SHIPPING AGENT NOTICED CASSETTES (WHICH NOT ORDINARILY PROVIDED) WERE NOT IN THE VEHICLES. EMPLOYEE WAS SENT TO NEARBY STORE TO BUY THEM AND HE BOUGHT FIRST AVAILABLE WHICH HAPPENED TO BE RCA. EMPLOYEE, UPON BEING INFORMED BY SHIPPING AGENT THAT RCA NOT ACCEPTABLE, RATHER THAN GO TO TROUBLE OF RETURNING THEM, SIMPLY TORE OFF LABELS. GM KNEW NOTHING ABOUT MATTER UNTIL IT RECEIVED CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE WARNING.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE, CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE HAS CIRCULATED ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERS WITH INITIAL CHARGES AGAINST GMC AND GM'S ANSWER AND ASKED FOR VOTE. BOYCOTT OFFICE RECOMMENDED POSITIVE VOTE. TEN POSITIVE VOTES ARE REQUIRED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ACTION AGAINST GMC. TO DATE, ONE A.L. MEMBER (IRAQ) HAS REPLIED IN NEGATIVE AND NINE (INCLUDING SYRIA AND EGYPT) HAVE CAST POSITIVE VOTES. OTHER A.L. MEMBERS HAVE SIX MORE WEEKS TO REPLY. SHOULD THEY NOT DO SO, THEY WILL BE COUNTED AS ABSENTATIONS AND PRESENT NINE TO ONE VOTE WILL STAND. ONE MORE POSITIVE VOTE WILL IMMEDIATELY TERMINATE ACTION AGAINST GMC.

5. ALL ABOVE INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY LOCAL BUSINESS-
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MAN WHO DESIRES COMPLETE ANONYMITY.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE DISCRIMINATION, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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